

1163
November 22

Dear Mr. Gibbs:

It was most kind of you to send along for me the articles and I do appreciate it. I'm typing off copies for my file and will very shortly have them back in the mails to you. Have part of one yet to go and then had to stop and get out a magazine.

I did hold off sending my article on the tinneh in to a publication requesting it until your material had come, just for a chance to check and see whether I'd omitted anything important. These do come up with several important things--I think one that struck me most was the reference to a copper belonging to Chief Shakes of Old Town. Now there aren't many who could appreciate this reference, but I do, and it shows you had a most accurate or knowledgeable informant and even more, that the information was reported correctly. Even the Indian man at Wrangell who talks on Chief Shakes at the replica house doesn't have a good presentation and very unclear on Old Town. (He never even mentioned it as such and actually said that Shakes gathered all the various tribes in the area to live around the Russian settlement whereas this is far from true. But so far I've been unable to determine much idea of when Chief Shakes the Great (this OUGHT to be the designation) left Old Town (if ever) for what we now call Wrangell.

Actually, though, this does represent the biggest problem in the articles themselves and any such articles. There is the problem of getting accurate information originally, transmitting it accurately, and also perhaps making accurate evaluations if any. Seldom is this done and the tinneh give a typical example. It is very inaccurate to group the northwest

Indians as a whole and yet from the earliest explorers, as people draw from their accounts, this is done. Thus an observation at a Nootka village will be projected to apply to any village to Yakutat. And this just isn't and wasn't true. But also, having lived among the Thlingets myself for 3 years, I KNOW that the evaluating is especially hard and often one may be told the exact truth and not understand its significance. Then also, the Indians have always withheld what they chose to do. But the articles also reminded me to preach at myself also and not extend what I learned in one village to any other by application. It may fit, but the accurate and exact writer is narrowly precise. I've learned through the years how this worked so that in research I can take a statement I do not understand and incorporate it in my work, re-worded, but stating the same thing. And then later when I do understand I'll find I was exact and write because I didn't in any way adapt the statement. And, unfortunately, this is constantly done with Indian stuff.

Incidentally, do note in my monograph the carefully copied drawing of Chief Skowl lying in state with his possessions. Then here is the comparable drawing of Chief Shakes the Great. About the same decade, too. It is startling, eh? No coppers. Knowing the chief's history a bit, one can see from the picture (you may keep it) that his major interest was lineage and the old customs. The copper was more of an innovation and, further, he had abandoned some of the potlatch custom. (I was offended at the article which spoke of money values of bracelets and earrings...with Chief Shakes this custom was NOT buying the ring. It was more like working one's way through college in that an effort of work earned the right to wear the bracelet or earring and the effort was the sacrifice of a slave which the daughter of Shakes discontinued by her rebellion. It is a small point, but an important one because it definitely takes this jewelry out of the class of money entirely.) But so many of these details are not known to many, and they're one reason I write so much research Alaskana. Sincerely,

L Burdick

Dec 1, 1967

Dear Mrs Burdick:

Thank you for your letter of the 22nd which arrived while I was in Bermuda. I imagin it was quite a bit colder where you were.

I am answering in a hurry as the cards enclosed must have been put in your envelope by mistake.

Just return my articles when you have finished with them.

If you wish to read the Smithsonian report of 1895 you are welcome to see it but it is quite a large volume.

Should there be anything more I can do to help please let me know.

Yours truly,

Howard D. Gibbs

October 29, 1957

Dear Wes Burdick:

Thank you for your letter of the 9th.

You have dug up a lot of information and native names but there was much more to the use of the "coppers" than you apparently learned.

I am sending you by library copy of my articles in the Numismatist April 1933 and Feb 1935. Also an article by Vernon Brown Feb. 1947 and C. H. Sigler ~~xxxxxx~~ Sept 1950. Please return at your convenience.

Please you have copies of "Fables of Statehood" by Ray Bernard & Ray McDowell, Box 5-280, Anchorage, Alaska. Both wonderful people whom I had the privilege of meeting in Anchorage last year. Also "Alaska's Coinage Through The Years" by Gerald Bressett and Withridge. Published by Whitman Publishing Co. Seattle, Wash.

If you wish I have a number of books on Alaska. Most important is the Smithsonian report of 1895, also Smithsonian Bulletin No. 29, 1905 "Haida Texts and Myths". These are large bound books.

It was my good fortune to locate and buy an here-to-fore unknown and unique specimen of the Alaska seal skin 50 lopeck piece. Entirely different than any heretofore known. Even the heritage to Denialred which I visited last July did not have any record of it.

I visited all of the museums in Alaska (I think) except the small one in Sitka last year and was surprised at the few "coppers" they had. None had a large heavy one like mine but there were several small ones. I have 14 of the coppers. The sizes run 1 1/2 x 2 1/2.. 1-3/4 x 3" .. 1-1/8 x 2" .. 5 x 7" ... 12 x 12 1/2 .. 8 x 6 1/2 .. 24 x 16 x 26 .. 24 x 16 x 26 (this weighs 175 pounds) and FIVE small coopers sewed on a piece of a Hudson Bay Blanket showing the Chief owned 5 "coppers". I also have a very large collection of other media such as bead necklaces etc.

Yours truly,
Howard H. Glabe

ANA#1949(50 yrs)
Director: Of Fgh Numismatic Museum

Oct 3, 1967

Quest Books,
Court Place,
Puyallup, Wash.

Gentlemen:

Please send me a copy of the article
on Alaska "coppers" by Mrs Loraine Burdick which
I understand is \$2.00.

Check enclosed.

Yours truly,

Howard D. Gibbs

October 3, 1967

Mrs Lorraine Burdick,
Feyaliup, Wash.

Dear Madam:

I have read with interest that you have written and article on the "coppers" of Alaska and am looking forward to reading it.

I have 13 of the "Jinnehs". The two most interesting specimens are (a) the largest known which is 16 X 24 X 48 and weighs 175 pounds. The second is a long piece of Hudson Bay blanket to which a wealthy chief had fastened FIVE small "copper" 2-3/4x3 to show that he owned five large ones.

Am offered another one which is 10X20".

I presume you have read my article on this subject. Numismatist 1933 Volume 45 Page 234 and 1935. Vol.48 Page 75. The detailed account of the use of the "coppers" was in the yearly report of the Smithsonian Institute 1895.

I was amazed in visiting Alaska last year of the few "coppers" in the museums in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks. I did not get to Sitka.

If I can be of any service to you, please write me.

Yours truly,

Howard D. Gibbs

A.N.A. No. 1949 (50 years)
Director: Pgh Numismatic Museum
Patron: A.N.S.

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Mrs. Burdick Writes Paper On Alaskan Copper Money

A fascinating account of Alaskan Indian copper money is provided in a 10-page monograph prepared by Mrs. Loraine Burdick of Puyallup, Wash.

She provides legendary as well as practical accounts of the origin of the pieces, which were variously known as "Tow," "Ta-ko" and "Tinneh" by the tribes of the north. This were recognized as symbols of great worth, with pedigrees which doubled in value with each change of ownership.

Mrs. Burdick quotes many references, indicating much research on the series, which measured from 2½ inches to 3½ feet in height. Since they were symbols of affluence, it was the custom for a chief to share the proceeds of a sale of one of these pieces with the people of his tribe, to demonstrate his importance and largesse.

Many other facts regarding "Tinneh" transactions for the edification of the odd and curious collector are recorded by Mrs. Burdick in this folder. The folder, with a replica of a piece made by the Tlinget Indians of southeast Alaska, distributed by the Haines-Port Chilkoot Chamber of Commerce, is available to readers at \$2 each. Orders should be addressed to **Quest Books**, Court Place, Puyallup, Wash. 98371.

Dutch Dealer Reports Move

Coin dealer A. G. Van Der Dussen recently announced that he had changed his place of business from Bunde, Netherlands, to Maastricht, also in the Netherlands.

The Dutch dealer, who has extensive mail order customer contacts in North America, specializes in coins, medals, decorations and numismatic books.

His new mailing address is now: A. G. Van Der Dussen, Hondstraat 5, Maastricht, Netherlands.

Tri-Sippi Event Set



Copper "Tinneh" used by Alaska Indians, from monograph by Loraine Burdick.

Firm Sets October 10 Mail Sale

Foreign gold and minor medals, tokens and political items will be available to collectors in the fourth mail bid sale of Numismatic Enterprises, 16661 Ventura boulevard, Suite 518, Encino, Calif. Closing date is October 10, 1967.

Paper money collectors will find uncut sheets, and obsolete bank notes while ancient coin collectors will have a wide range of Greek and Roman coins from which to choose.

United States colonial and type coins are also featured in the sale.

Foreign coins offered in the sale include German two - mark coins, 1876-A, Fine; Farthing of Great Britain's Victoria, 1895, Uncirculated; a 1952 penny of British West Africa, Very Fine, a 12-centime coin of Haiti, VF plus and annas and rupees of the Indian state of Bikinar.

Catalogs are available on request; list of prices realized will be \$1, firm officials indicated.

With the
FREE, some
for us by
sure you'll

One Dollar
Two Dollars
Five Dollars
Seven Pieces

5 day return
refund. All
day receive
O.K. Please
postage, in-
line. \$1.00

ALASKETTES, ALASKAN LORE AND CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN. Much of this material appeared first in THE GRADE TEACHER, THE INSTRUCTOR, various church publications for children, as well as in a weekly column in the ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS of Anchorage, Alaska. This soft-cover book of 186 large pages combines the authentic in Alaskan projects, crafts, photographs, poems and all sorts of materials for fun in learning to cover all phases and regions of Alaska. Indians, Eskimos, Russians, pioneers and modern settlers are all included for a thoroughly delightful fun book for a child at home or a whole classroom. Priced at only \$3.50, postpaid.



Special teaching unit folders \$2.00 each: Looseleaf sheets are mounted in a folder for easy removal for use on the bulletin board, opaque projector, or duplicator. These teaching unit folders are designed for an experience in depth and are especially suited to the pupil who wants to know how the Alaskans really lived. They will stimulate many learning experiences in crafts, story telling and drama. ALASKAN SKIN CLOTHES not only tells with photographs and diagrams--even some patterns--just how various skin garments were made but includes samples of the actual furs and skins to see, feel, yes, even to smell. Why do Eskimos wear wolverine around the face? How many kinds of boots did they make? How did they color the skins? What did the Indians make with skins? If you can answer these questions and have accompanying pictures, then you won't need the special teaching unit folder on ALASKAN SKIN CLOTHES. Then how about ALASKAN HOMES? How was the barabara of the Aleuts like the Eskimo igloo? How many different kinds of homes did the Indians build? What part did totem design have in their homes? This unit doesn't include a sample home nor a piece of genuine Arctic sod for a sod igloo, but it has step-by-step pictures plus plenty of text to answer questions hatched by genius as well as time-killer. ALASKAN INDIAN COPPER MONEY tells quite briefly about the famous coppers of potlatch and trade and includes one carefully made miniature copper--or tinneh--from Haines, Alaska.

QUEST BOOKS PRESENTS

Helps for Teaching:



ARCTIC ALASKA ADVENTURE

A series of 80 slides with accompanying script prepared with the cooperation of ALASKA SPORTSMAN MAGAZINE. Slides are duplicated by Wolfe Worldwide Films. This set of slides has been prepared by a teacher-missionary-writer team who has lived in the Alaskan Arctic nine years. These are pictures of our friends and the way of life they shared with us. Now we invite you to come along and share it also as our friends and guests, not merely tourists. This series has been especially adapted to the fifth grade study unit on Alaska and the new fourth grade unit on Arctic regions. Prepared for a practical experience of the Arctic, not just a view. Boxed set of 80 slides and script mounted in easy-to-use notebook for \$31.95, postpaid.

Thanks so much for returning the items in-
advertently enclosed (due to messy desk, I guess). Was so BAFLED as to
where they'd gone. Guess I won't need to borrow the 1895 Smith
sonian volume you mention. Thanks anyway & happy holidays!

[illegible]

George again has a third grade classroom this year and monitors the telephone and other classes in the absence of half-time principal and secretary. He continues to preach at Wabash, the little country church where he has been for almost 8 years now. He and Loraine have begun a new type of mid-week Bible study divided into months with 1 class or 1 topic to run for a month. He figure that if people could only make the effort to attend just a month, it would be a big help and lots better than attending 4 spaced meetings through a 6 month period. Then Thursday nights find George at the trailer court to lead their Bible study.

Gloria keeps busy in the 10th grade plus baby sitting two afternoons a week after school. Then she has taken the job of stage manager and set designer for the Christmas program at church so she has done her shopping early.

Frances is a senior this year, but it seems to be an easy one with lots of reading. In October she gave us a bit of a confusion by getting some strange malady, perhaps started by flu, and ended up in the hospital for 6 pints of blood to build up her hemoglobin which had dropped to 1/4 normal in what appears to have been 1 week. (Loraine who had nutrition as one college major and got A's in the dietician's course can't believe the doctor's suggestion it was poor diet.) Now Frances is all eager for today the school principal gave his permission for her to take a trip in February with her grandmother to Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Bora Bora, and Fiji for a month. Those who know Loraine's mother knew what a gem for travel she has (perhaps it remains from school teaching days) and she is getting along in years till it helps a bit to have someone along besides being with a tour group.

This summer we lost our oldest orphan—we got him (in Korea) while we were at Barrow and he is just Gloria's age so we've had him about 14 years. But now an uncle has turned up and so Kim belongs to someone else. It is a loss for they become something of a part of us.

So our year has been unspectacular---that's the kind of folks we are. Yet we gladly count each day and hope to spend it usefully until the year comes again.

You friends

Your friends
Lorne Burdick
Hoy Burdick

It took:

14 skins to buy a gun, a cheap flint-lock
made in Birmingham Engl.

1 skin to buy a pound of powder

1 skin to buy 4 pounds of shot

1 skin to buy 16 Gun flints

7 skins to buy 1 blanket

2 skins to buy 1 brass kettle

2 skins to buy 1 check shirt

2 skins to buy 1 pair of yarn stockings

2 skins to buy 1 pound of glass beads

7 skins to buy 1 pistol

1 skin to buy 3 fire steels

1 skin to buy 1 ice chisel

1 skin to buy 1 pound of thread

1 skin to buy 1 pound of tobacco

1 skin to buy 1 dozen needles

Trade values

N.W. Co.

H. B. Co.

Amer. Fur Co.

Values varied according
to Location of
Trading Post.

Other items of trade were:

Cut tube of pemmican

Twist of Brazil tobacco

Manchester woolen cloth

From "Furmasters"